4: West K-5 (1946) 1948 NU34 Tarasco NU34
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4/23 311 [656] Before the promulgation of the Federal forest laws (1930's), all members of the pueblo reserved the right to cut wood and lumber in the *monte* with permission of the *representante*. Today a Federal tax must be paid (but is often evaded) by each pueblo for lumber rights. Small plots of land (*desmontes*) may be cleared and planted in any part of the forest, but the farmer must first gain permission of the *representante* and his committee. In addition to the *monte* many pueblos possess certain croplands, called *tierras de la comunidad*, which are not assigned permanently to individuals, but are worked communally, usually by landless farmers, who receive a portion of the harvest as remuneration. The remainder of the crop is often stored in the pueblo as communal property to be sold by the *representante* for the town treasury or to be used as food in time of shortage.

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241 177 still forms the leading crop complex, but the European grains—wheat, barley, the broadbean and lentil—have become intimately associated with Tarascan agriculture. European fruits are grown with native types; Old World vegetables, mainly cabbage, have become an integral part of native food habits. But the modern Tarascan considers such crops, most of which were introduced over 400 years ago, as part of his aboriginal culture. Furthermore, although Tarascans still practice pre-Columbian shifting agriculture on steep slopes, the Old World plow has transformed indigenous cultivation on level and gently sloping lands.

Agricultural acculturation continues constantly. Tarascan *braceros* returning from the United States have brought in apple cuttings from the Yakima Valley, grapevines from California, corn from Iowa. Within the last three decades a South American *Oxalis* (*papa de Castilla*) has been introduced in the Sierra south and west of Lake Pátzcuaro. Again, alfalfa cultivation is slowly penetrating into many parts of the Sierra. Recently the Federal Government introduced a few steel [654] plows in some Tarascan villages, and here and there one sees engine-powered threshing machines slowly replacing the ancient European threshing floor and flail.